

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Key West (City) has determined that the following proposed action under the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (CDBG-CV) program is located in a 100-year floodplain and that the City will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), in accordance with the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20, Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed action is located at 5537 College Road, Key West, Monroe County, Florida. The City proposes to remove the existing Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter facilities on 9,024 square feet and construct a new permanent structure covering approximately 10,422 square feet within the same general area. The new John Jones Navigation Center would be constructed as an elevated structure above parking, and would have updated infrastructure, such as a fire-safety sprinkler system, lighting, site security fencing, dependable climate control, improved plumbing, a compliant mechanical system, energy-efficient operations, accessibility, and reliable electricity. It would continue to provide temporary housing for approximately 150 low-income homeless people and would not increase the number of employees.

The entire proposed action site (42,926 square feet) is within the 100-year floodplain (Flood Zone AE) according to the Letter of Map Revision effective January 24, 2022, for Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 12087C1509K. A floodplain map has been prepared showing the location of the proposed action and is available for review with additional information at 1300 White Street, Key West, and at <https://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/>.

The proposed action site is on a peninsula surrounded by areas identified as Estuarine and Marine Wetland by the National Wetlands Inventory. No project activities or disturbance will occur in wetland areas or other waters of the United States. No further analysis of this project is required under Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands).

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplains, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by April 24, 2023, at the following address: 1300 White Street, Key West, FL 33040, Attention: Teri Johnston, Mayor. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8 am to 5 pm at 1300 White Street, Key West, and <https://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/>. Comments may also be submitted via email to gary.volenec@cityofkeywest-fl.gov.

Date: April 8, 2023